



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 25 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
25 OCTOBER 1968

1. [REDACTED]

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2. Czechoslovakia

The withdrawal of non-Soviet occupation forces from Czechoslovakia probably will be completed early next month.

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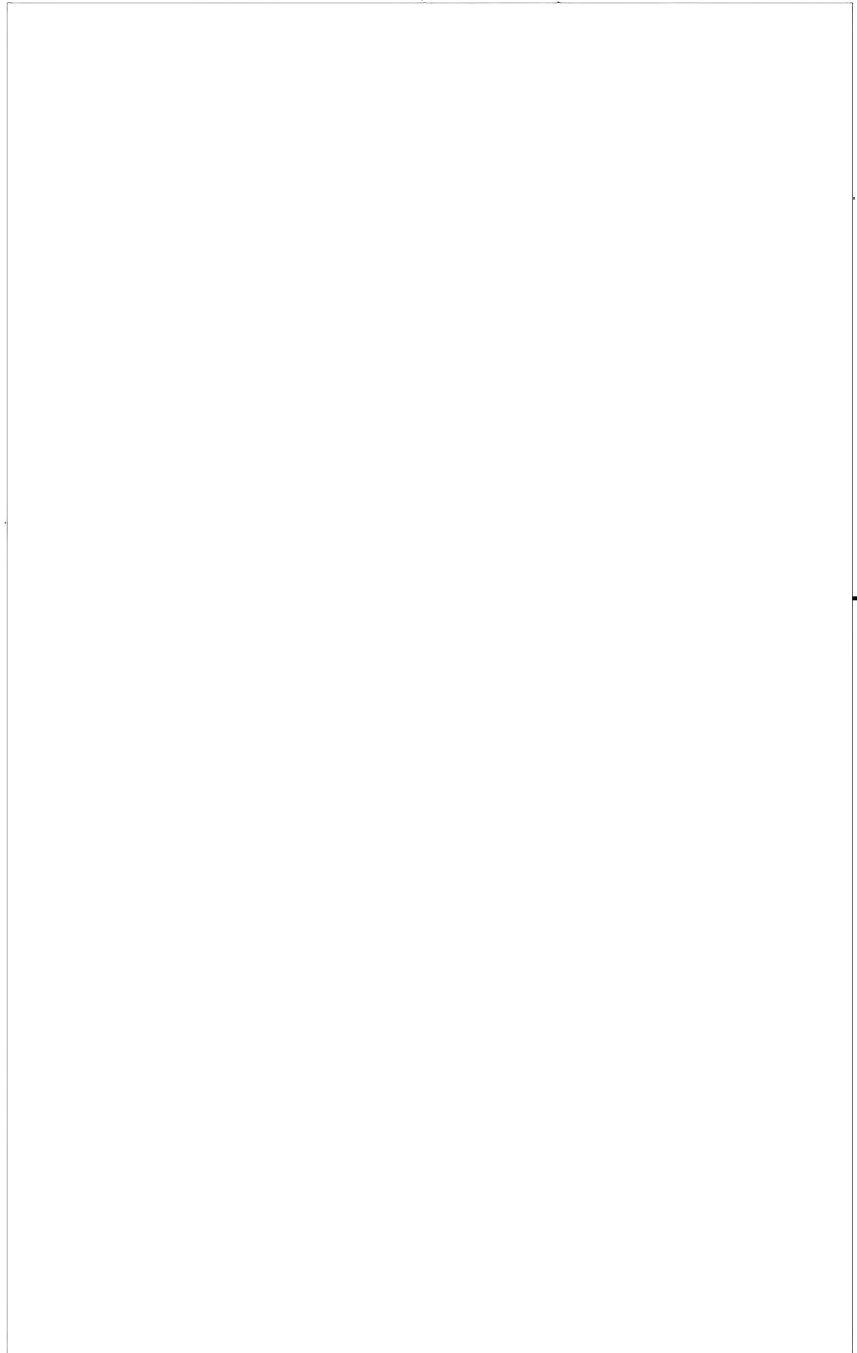
[REDACTED] Polish, Hungarian, and Bulgarian units began leaving the country earlier this week.

Some of the Soviet units in western Czechoslovakia seem to be preparing to return to their home garrisons in East Germany as part of the reduction of the Soviet force level.

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**3. Rumania**

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4. Saudi Arabia

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5. Ghana -  
Soviet Union

The Ghanaians are going to hold on for some time to the two Soviet trawlers they seized in Ghanaian waters earlier this month. They are convinced that the Soviet vessels were engaged in hanky-panky [REDACTED]

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The Soviets are resigned to a good deal of bad publicity as a result of this incident and are not yet making an issue of the seizure, but they will probably begin to yell if the ships are not released fairly soon.

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## 6. Peru

Preliminary talks on a Soviet loan to Peru have begun at the Soviet Embassy in Chile. The military government is expecting economic missions from the Soviet Union and other East European countries and has also approved a Soviet request to conduct "maritime biological exploration" off the Peruvian coast.

Peru is indeed seeking new markets and other sources of foreign aid, but it is probably publicizing these overtures to the Soviets as a means of pressuring the US to maintain normal diplomatic and economic ties.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S  
Political Attitudes



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25 October 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Soviets Protest "Near Bombing" of Their Hydro-graphic Ship: Moscow evidently intends to treat an alleged incident in the Tonkin Gulf in low key. A Soviet Foreign Ministry official called in the US chargé on the evening of 23 October to register a mild protest against the "near bombing" of the Soviet vessel. He referred to the action as a "new provocation" and demanded that the guilty parties be punished and steps be taken to prevent a recurrence. When queried, he added that he knew of no plans to publicize the incident or the protest at this time. The Soviets protested and publicized two other "near misses" in Haiphong harbor in the summer of 1966.

Preliminary field reports indicate that two US Navy A-4s jettisoned eight bombs, the nearest some three and a half nautical miles from the Soviet hydro-graphic vessel Peleng in international waters in the Tonkin Gulf on the morning of 23 October.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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